

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 23-26 are now present in this application. Claims 23-26 are independent.

Claims 21 and 22 have been canceled and claims 23-26 have been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicants did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

II. Drawings

The Office Action indicates that the drawings are accepted by the Examiner.

Therefore, Applicants assume that no further action is necessary.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stefik, EP 0715247 A1. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Claims 23-26

Claims 23-26 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Independent claim 23 recites a combination of steps in a method for uploading a digital data file comprising checking a coded information indicating the source of said digital file, where the coded information has been attached to said digital data file; and controlling whether to transfer said digital data file based on said checked result.

Independent claim 24 recites a combination of elements in a program embodied on a computer readable medium for uploading a digital data file, comprising a first program code segment to check a coded information indicating the source of said digital data file, where the coded information has been attached to said digital data file; and a second program code segment to control whether to transfer said digital data file based on said checked result.

Independent claim 25 recites a combination of steps in a method for uploading a digital data file, comprising checking a coded information indicating the source of said digital data file, where the coded information has been attached to said digital data file; and controlling whether to transfer said digital data file with said coded information based on said checked result.

Independent claim 26 recites a combination of elements in a program embodied on a computer-readable medium for uploading a digital data file, comprising a first program code segment to check a coded information indicating the source of said digital data file, where the coded information has been attached to said digital data file; and a second program code segment to control whether to transfer said digital data file with said coded information based on said checked result.

Applicants respectfully submit that these combinations of steps and elements as set forth in independent claims 23-26 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Stefik, which fails to disclose checking a coded

information indicating the source of a digital file, where the coded information has been attached to said digital data file, as claimed.

Consideration and allowance of claims 23-26 are respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17;

Application No.: 09/500,573
Art Unit 2134

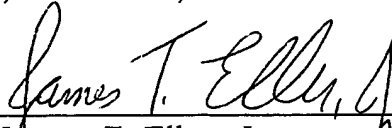
Attorney Docket No. 0630-0982P
Amendment filed April 23, 2004
Page 8

particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By:


James T. Eller, Jr.
Reg. No.: 39,538

JTE:mmi

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
Telephone: (703)205-8000